



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Katherine Hammack
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Installations, Energy and Environment)
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army
110 Army Pentagon, Room 3E464
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Re: July 22, 2014, Effective Date for RCRA Section 7003 Unilateral Administrative Order,
U.S. EPA Docket Number RCRA-06-2014-0902, Explo Systems, Inc. Site, Camp
Minden, Louisiana

Dear Ms. Hammack:

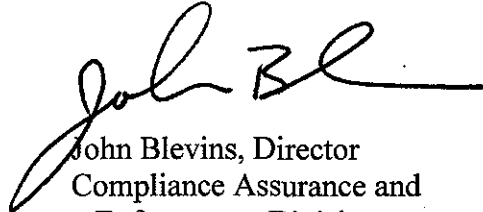
By this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notifies the U.S. Department of the Army that the Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) under Section 7003 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), first issued to the Army on March 18, 2104, is now effective at Camp Minden (LA). Pursuant to Paragraph 149 of the UAO, the UAO becomes effective within 5 calendar days of your receipt of EPA's decision finalizing the UAO. EPA's decision was hand-delivered to your office on Thursday, July 17, 2014. Therefore, the UAO is effective today, Tuesday, July 22, 2014.

Next, pursuant to Paragraph 143 of the UAO, the Army must notify EPA in writing of its intent to comply with the UAO no later than five days after the effective date of the UAO, or by Monday, July 28, 2014.

As you know, EPA issued to the Army, and later finalized, this RCRA Order requiring the Army to address 15 million pounds of abandoned propellant stored on the grounds of Camp Minden near Doyline, LA. The UAO finds the Army contributed to the illegal storage and handling of the waste explosives, thereby creating an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and the environment. This site, in Northwestern Louisiana, has been owned and operated by the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Military Department since 2005. Explo Systems, Inc., a private demilitarization contractor to the Army, had been using the site to improperly store unused explosives and propellant. As this material ages, it becomes more unstable, increasing the chances of an uncontrolled explosion. Such an explosion did occur in October 2012. Camp Minden is also under a Louisiana "State of Emergency" proclamation.

Finally, within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of the UAO or August 6, 2014, the Army must submit a plan for eliminating the endangerment posed by the propellant to EPA. The plan must include safety measures for workers and the surrounding area. The UAO also requires the Army to plan for the health and safety of the local community during the cleanup.

Sincerely,



John Blevins, Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

cc: Cynthia Giles
Ron Curry